

Resources:

One great source of information for responsible pesticide and fertilizer use is:

- Water Well-Being: The Manual

This booklet is available from the Department of Agricultural Resources, Pesticide Bureau. The manual can be found at:
www.mass.gov/waterwellbeing or contact the office directly at (617) 626-1700 for your copy.



Another good resource from the University of Massachusetts is the publication:

- Turf IPM Facts

This can be purchased from the UMASS Extension Bookstore or online at www.umasssturf.org

Some other good sources of information include publications from the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service, Fort Collins, CO. These are entitled:

- Homeowner's Guide to Protecting Water Quality and the Environment
- Homeowner's Guide to Pesticide Use Around the Home and Garden

These can be found at the following website:
www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/pubgard.html

Also check out the National Audubon Society website for their publication:

- Audubon Guide for a Healthy Yard and Beyond: 10 Commandments for a Healthy Yard

www.audubon.org/bird/pdf/pesticideguide.pdf

For more information:

Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500

Boston, MA 02114

617-626-1700

www.mass.gov/agr

Department of Environmental Protection

Source Water Protection Program

One Winter Street

Boston, MA 02108

617-556-1157

www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/dwspubs.htm

University of Massachusetts

- UMASS Soil and Plant Tissue Testing Laboratory, West Experiment Station

www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest

413-545-2311

- UMASS Extension Agriculture and Landscape Program

www.umass.edu/agland/

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA 01003

The National Audubon Society

700 Broadway

New York, NY 10003

212-979-3000

www.audubon.org/

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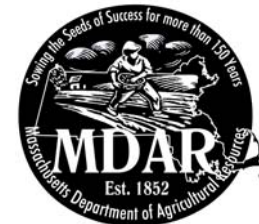
You

Can help protect our drinking water

A Guide for Homeowners

The Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAP)

Massachusetts Department of
Agricultural Resources



How does SWAP affect Homeowners?

You and members of your community are concerned with having superior quality of water as well as sufficient quantity. Certain practices used around the home could compromise the quality of drinking water supplies. In Massachusetts, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has ranked lawn care, fertilizer storage and use, and composting facilities as medium potential threats to public drinking water supplies. Pesticide storage or use is ranked as a high potential threat.

Many of these practices, if not all of them, affect your landscape and garden in some way.

What is SWAP?

SWAP is the Source Water Assessment & Protection Program created by Congress in 1996. It is a program designed to identify potential threats to drinking water sources. Through this program, Massachusetts is developing a SWAP report and map for each public water system that describes the potential threats and also recommends strategies to protect drinking water locally.



What can You do to help limit the impact of activities at your home on the Drinking Water Supply?

There are many things that you can do and may already be doing, to help protect your community's water supply. Here are a few general recommendations:

Lawn Care Suggestions:

- *Accept a certain amount of pests or weeds as part of the natural balance of nature.*
- *Question the need for Pesticides; use alternative pest control measures first such as hand pulling bugs or mulching.*
- *Select landscape plants that are well adapted to your site and have low water requirements.*
- *Perform routine soil tests to determine if fertilizer is needed.*
- *Mow your grass high (no shorter than 2") and often so that the clippings and their nutrients can be recycled. A healthy lawn requires fewer chemicals.*
- *Water your lawn on an "as-needed basis" rather than on a calendar schedule. Never "over-water", or water too heavily for it to runoff, after pesticide or fertilizer applications.*

Pesticide and Fertilizer Tips:

- *Use only the amount of pesticide or fertilizer specified by the label-more is NOT better!*
- *Mix only the amount of pesticide that will be used for the current job.*
- *Never pour leftover spray mix or pesticide down the drain or storm sewer.*
- *Maintain natural buffer areas or grass strips where no chemicals are applied between your property and any stream, lake or drainage way.*
- *Consider using a licensed, professional applicator instead of applying chemicals yourself. You can call the Pesticide Bureau to find a licensed professional.*
- *If a pesticide is needed, apply it at the correct time and rate.*
- *Use slow release forms of fertilizer.*
- *Follow all label directions for storing and mixing of pesticides or fertilizers and for disposing of empty containers. Make sure the products are kept in their original containers with labels intact.*

